United Nations

Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Cease-fire accord is signed by military representatives of Bosnian Government and Bosnian Croat sides, agreeing to halt all offensive actions from noon on Friday, 25 February; in separate development, Special Representative condemns attack yesterday in Central Bosnia in which five UNPROFOR soldiers were injured.

+ Security Council, in resolution on Mozambique, authorizes establishment of police component of ONUMOZ, with simultaneous reduction in military personnel; stresses importance of general elections being held no later than October 1994 and termination of ONUMOZ mandate within a month.

+ Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, in telephone discussion, thanks Secretary-General for drawing attention to progress made towards resolving crisis in Haiti; says he will come to New York for further discussions in early March.

+ United Nations launches appeal for $114 million for emergency humanitarian assistance in Kenya, to assist those affected by drought last year, this year's crop deficit and refugees and those impacted by their presence.

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A cease-fire agreement was signed today by the military representatives of the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Croat sides in Zagreb, at a meeting hosted by the Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), General Jean Cot. According to the text of the accord, the two parties agreed to a total and immediate cessation of hostilities with effect from noon on Friday, 25 February, with no further offensive actions or attacks, a halt to all forms of propaganda against one another, and a fixing of lines of contact and positions as of the time of the cease-fire.

According to Yasushi Akashi, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UNPROFOR forces are to be positioned at key points; heavy weapons are to be withdrawn or put under UNPROFOR control, and a Joint

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Commission is to be established, with representatives of both sides and chaired by UNPROFOR. He said he trusted that the cease-fire would be implemented in all consciousness by both sides. "Unless there is a political will of the two sides to honour this agreement, I'm afraid that whatever UNPROFOR does may be of limited influence," he stressed.

In a separate development, Mr. Akashi condemned the mortar attack yesterday on UNPROFOR troops in central Bosnia, in which five Swedish soldiers were injured. He also expressed increasing concern about the situation at the Sava River Bridge, where about 100 local Serb militiamen had been preventing the movement of UNPROFOR personnel for the previous four days.

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The Security Council today authorized the establishment of a United Nations police component of up to 1,144 personnel as an integral part of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ). It did so by unanimously adopting resolution 898 (1994). To ensure that there was no increase in the cost of ONUMOZ, it also requested the Secretary-General to prepare specific proposals for the drawdown of the number of military personnel.

The police component of ONUMOZ, in accordance with a request from the Government of Mozambique and the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO), is to provide technical support to the National Police Commission, monitor proper conduct of the electoral campaign and verify respect for the political rights of individuals, groups and organizations.

The Council welcomed the recent positive developments in the implementation of the General Peace Agreement, but expressed concern at the continuing delay in other key aspects. It reiterated the vital importance it attached to the holding of general elections in Mozambique no later than October 1994 and to the early commencement of registration and other electoral preparations, and it urged the parties to agree promptly on a specific election date. It also appealed to the international community to provide the necessary financial assistance to facilitate the implementation of the General Peace Agreement and to make voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund to be set up to support electoral activities of the political parties.

By the resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a timetable for the completion of ONUMOZ's mandate and a turnover of its remaining functions to United Nations agencies and programmes by the end of November this year, by which time the elected government would be expected to have assumed office.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali last night talked on the telephone with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti about the letters which Mr. Boutros-Ghali sent earlier this week to the Presidents of the Security Council and the General Assembly. They conveyed the letter he had received from a group of Haitian Parliamentarians about a plan to break the

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current political impasse in their country. According to a United Nations spokesman, President Aristide expressed his appreciation to the Secretary-General for the action he had taken and for drawing public attention to the situation in Haiti.

The spokesman said the Secretary-General invited President Aristide to visit United Nations Headquarters to pursue discussions with him and with the Friends of the Secretary-General for Haiti on ways to resolve the crisis. President Aristide is about to travel to Europe, but said he would meet with Mr. Boutros-Ghali when he returned on 5 March.

In his letter to the Security Council, dated 22 February (S/1994/203), the Secretary-General described as "significant developments" the recent agreements reached between Haitian Parliamentarians from all sides and their acceptance of a plan of action endorsed by President Aristide for the resumed implementation of the Governors Island Agreement.

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The United Nations today launched an appeal for $114 million for emergency humanitarian assistance in Kenya. The programmes in question will benefit three groups of people: persons in areas still suffering from the effects of the 1992-93 drought; those in areas where the impact of the 1993-94 crop deficit has been most severe but which were not previously targeted, and refugees and the large number of people impacted by their presence.

The total cereal deficit in Kenya for 1993-94 has been estimated at over 2 million metric tons. Since the appeal was initially drafted, evidence suggests that the situation has deteriorated even further, leading the World Food Programme (WFP) to almost double its estimated food assistance requirements. The WFP is seeking $46.3 million to respond to the needs of approximately 2 million drought victims, displaced persons and other vulnerable groups. Funds are sought also by the various other United Nations agencies dealing specifically with refugees, children, agriculture and medical care.

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